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News Media Inquiries: (317) 587-4450

www.rcascenium.com

Contact: Dave Arland, e-mail: dave.arland@rcascenium.com James Harper, e-mail: james.harper@rcascenium.com



# THOMSON TAKES HIGH-DEFINITION TELEVISION TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH RCA SCENIUM HDTV SETS EQUIPPED TO RECEIVE DIGITAL BROADCASTS, SURF WITH HIGH-SPEED CONNECTIVITY

Three New Rear Projection Models Showcase Widescreen Capabilities of Terrestrial High-Definition Broadcasts and Feature Secure Digital Inputs

NEW YORK, July 10, 2002 – Delivering on the promise of the high-definition digital TV transition, Thomson (Euronext: 18453) (NYSE: TMS) raised the curtain today on three new rear projection, widescreen RCA Scenium HDTV Sets with built-in ATSC tuning and decoding capability, high-speed broadband connectivity for Internet browsing, and secure digital interfaces that assure compatibility with next-generation HDTV set-top components from cable and satellite operators.

"With the introduction of these new RCA Scenium models, Thomson is establishing a new benchmark for quality performance of fully-integrated digital HDTV," said Eric Meurice, Executive Vice President, TV Division Worldwide. "These rear-projection HDTV Sets provide consumers with outstanding widescreen picture performance, superior audio capability, and a second window to the Internet – all within a very elegant 'floating picture' cabinet."

Combining elegance in design and excellence in technology, the three new RCA Scenium models are the 65-inch **HD65W140** (suggested retail price \$4,299), the 61-inch **HD61W140** (suggested retail price \$3,799) and the 52-inch **HD52W140** (suggested retail price \$3,299), all of which feature an integrated web browser that operates with a broadband Internet connection.

## SceniVision™ HD Picture System

Thomson has developed the exclusive SceniVision™ HD Picture System for the new line of RCA Scenium integrated HDTV Sets, to give high-definition enthusiasts an outstanding picture. The SceniVision HD Picture System includes:

- -- Next-generation terrestrial ATSC receiver/decoder circuitry, which offers enhanced carrier tracking and equalizer/noise performance for overthe-air reception of terrestrial HDTV signals;
- -- InfiniFocus™ HD Projection CRTs, to provide improved spot size for better projection image performance. The new cathode ray tubes employed in RCA Scenium HDTV Sets have longer necks and combine higher performance scan velocity modulation and improved electron guns. The result is sharper, higher resolution images, greater detail, and a better transition between images;
- -- Linear Motion Upconverter Technology, for progressive scan upconversion, 1080i, and 480p display capability to eliminate unsightly scan lines and achieve film-like color images by motion adaptively selecting the best up-conversion method pixel by pixel. Video on television is actually displayed in two halves. Each 1/60th of a second, half of the video material is displayed, making a full frame of video each 1/30th of a second. Fortunately, the human brain cannot process the flashing images on the screen that quickly. Unfortunately, a by-product of this process is scanning lines that the eye can see. Digital television sets remove these scan lines by using an upconverter, or progressive scan, to digitally store both halves of the video frame and display them as one image, giving a film-like picture. The Linear Motion Upconverter used in RCA Scenium HDTV Sets uses patented technology that ensures a seamless conversion of video, especially between moving and still images that create the biggest challenge;
- --Adaptive Reverse 3:2 Pulldown, which automatically removes picture artifacts from the conversion of film to video to provide the smoothest possible image. Most movies made for the cinema are recorded at 24 frames per second. This is fine in the cinema, but digital television sets display video at 30 frames per second. Because the conversion of film frame rates from 24 to 30 frames can cause visible artifacts in high-definition sets, correction is needed. The frame based reverse 3:2 pulldown used in RCA Scenium HDTV Sets detects this difference and uses motion-adaptive technology to justify the frame rates and remove any potential artifacts;

Additional picture performance enhancements include the Optimum Contrast High-Resolution screen for 25 percent improved picture brightness and a built-in 3D Y/C Digital Frame Comb Filter that virtually eliminates dot and edge crawl while providing better transitions between scene changes.

The new models also incorporate on-screen caption technology compliant with new FCC requirements that will give broadcasters the ability to send advanced digital closed captioning information. When receiving a digital closed captioning service, the viewer will be able to select from a range of multiple text and background colors. Consumers can also vary the translucency of captioned text based on personal preference.

## **Expressive Global Design**

The new line of RCA Scenium HDTV Sets has been designed to appeal to consumers throughout the world. Thomson's design centers in the U.S. and Paris developed the Scenium aesthetic. RCA Scenium HDTV Sets feature a high gloss black screen area that separates the different elements of the TV design. This borderless screen creates the illusion of a floating picture that mysteriously emerges from the darkness - much like the movie screen in a dark theater. In addition, the brushed metal control panel and refined cloth-covered speaker enclosures visually represent the three core elements of the home theater experience: picture, technology, and sound - with an added sense of elegance and sophistication that fits in any home theatre environment.

# Powerful On-Board Audio Package Complements Video, Design

Home entertainment is not complete without lifelike sound to complement outstanding picture performance, so RCA Scenium HDTV Sets are equipped with premium audio enhancements including a powerful 60-watt audio system with built-in 30-watt subwoofer for achieving dramatic bass effects.

RCA Scenium HDTV Sets also include SRS TruSurround™ and SRS FOCUS™ Surround Sound capability, enabling the consumer to create dynamic, theatre-like sound from the television's own speakers.

An on-screen seven-band graphic equalizer is built in to further enhance audio enjoyment with eight sound presets and personalized EQ settings that enable consumers to customize the TV sound.

As an added convenience, the internal speakers of RCA Scenium HDTV Sets can be configured to act as the center channel in a Dolby Digital setup. This feature eliminates the need to place a center channel speaker on top of the HDTV Set, or near the screen.

# Forward-Thinking Compatibility with DVI-HDTV and DTVLink

Expanded home theatre enjoyment requires compatibility with external components such as DVD players, cable and satellite set-top boxes and other decoder/receivers. To assure that RCA Scenium HDTV Sets are equipped with the latest secure digital connections for today's HDTV home entertainment enjoyment, the following technologies are included:

- -- Ethernet broadband connection provides for fast web browsing and a second window to the Internet;
- -- Secure digital DVI-HDTV input with HDCP copy protection technology ensures that uncompressed video signals from a set-top device such as a digital satellite receiver, digital cable box, or other digital sources are optimized. The result is the best picture possible for HDTV programming;
- -- Dual SYNCROSCAN™ HD component video inputs allow connection of up to two component video sources such as DVD players and other HDTV set-top receivers;
- -- **Dual DTVLink (1394) inputs** with DTCP copy protection assures interoperability for future compatibility with external components such as next-generation set-top receivers or high-definition playback sources.

## **Program Guide Convenience**

A key to total enjoyment of the HDTV entertainment experience lies with the ease of use, convenience of accessing favorite programs, and the simplicity of connecting external components that further enhance home entertainment.

Among the convenience features of RCA Scenium integrated HDTV Sets is GUIDE Plus+, an on-screen interactive program guide that provides an instant summary of both analog and digital TV listings at the touch of a button. The built-in guide enables viewers to monitor program listings up to 48 hours in advance of broadcast and provides the capability for one-touch tuning and VCR recording. RCA Scenium HDTV Sets are the first to offer listings for both local analog and digital TV broadcasts from the GUIDE Plus+ interactive TV Guide.

The RCA Scenium line of HDTV Sets also includes an interactive set-up guide with menus that step the consumer through initial set-up, as well as the INTELLIFOCUS™ Digital Auto Convergence feature that delivers the sharpest picture possible with corner-to-corner clarity. Multiple front and rear composite audio/video inputs, front and rear S-Video inputs, and one set of audio outputs for connecting external components and speakers are also included.

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Certain statements in this press release, Including any discussion of management expectations for future periods, constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the "safe harbor" of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements are based on management's current expectations and beliefs and are subject to a number of factors and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the future results expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements due to changes in global economic and business conditions, consumer electronics markets, and regulatory factors. More detailed information on the potential factors that could affect the financial results of Thomson multimedia is contained in Thomson multimedia's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### **About Thomson**

With sales of 10.5 billion Euros (U.S. \$9.3 billion) in 2001 and 73,000 employees in more than 30 countries, Thomson multimedia (Euronext: 18453) (NYSE:TMS) provides a wide range of video (and enabling) technologies, systems, finished products and services to consumers and professionals in the entertainment and media industries. To advance and enable the digital media transition, Thomson multimedia has five principal activities: Digital Media Solutions, Displays and Components, Consumer Products, Patents and Licensing and New Media Services. The company distributes its products under the THOMSON, RCA and TECHNICOLOR brand names. For more information: www.thomson-multimedia.com.

#### **Consumer Products Press Relations**

Dave Arland (317) 587-4832 (U.S.) ArlandD@tce.com
Nicolas Jomard 33.1.41.86.5597 (Europe) JomardN@thmulti.com

#### Investor Relations

Pierre Villadary 33.141.86.6888 villadaryP@thmulti.com